



**The Virginia
Defense Force**

Bugler



June 2013

From the CG: *Modernization of the Virginia Defense Force*

All of us who have been a part of the Virginia Defense Force for the past several years have seen many changes. Generally, these changes have been in response to new missions or capabilities that we, as soldiers within the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), have undertaken to keep us prepared to work with our counterparts in the Virginia National Guard (VaNG).

As we have accepted these new missions, we have seen a great increase in our training requirements and our use by the DMA and VaNG over the past few years. In response to this mission-driven need for our unique capabilities, we have formed into several types of teams, to include our MCPs, IMATs, Shelter Management Support, JOC and VEOC Augmentation teams. While these teams have provided the VDF with a greater responsiveness in emergencies, their formation within our DIV, brigade, battalion and company structure have led to an examination of how best to organize the VDF to take advantage of our training and capabilities.

To achieve desired objective, I directed the commanding officers and CSMs of the brigades and the Division Troop Command, the Chief of Staff and several officers from the Division staff to look at our current organization. They made recommendations as how to utilize our personnel in a more effective manner while maintaining operational readiness and minimizing organizational turmoil. Working from the recommendations of the VDF leadership team, a final plan was presented to the Adjutant General, Major General Long on 24 April. He gave his approval to proceed based upon our meeting milestones over three phases. The approved force modernization program was briefed to the senior brigade and battalion leadership at Ft. Pickett on 27 April by BG Wheelus.

As we pursue this initiative over the next year, any changes to the organization will be implemented because it is in the judgment of the senior leadership that they will make us more responsive and ready to accomplish our missions. Also, I want everyone to know that no changes in the organization will affect the rank of any VDF soldier. We need the skills, knowledge and experience of every one of you, and there will be an important place for each soldier in this new organization.



MG John Taylor

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The Virginia Defense Force Non-Commissioned Officer of 2012

Sergeant Jason E. Poe

At a recent division-level selection board, SGT Jason E. Poe, of the 1st MP Company, was selected as the Virginia Defense Force Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2012.

SGT Poe has been a member of the VDF since 11 November 2008. Throughout that time he has built an impressive record of commitment and accomplishment. He has taken advantage of the numerous training opportunities within the MP Battalion and across the VDF. He has worked to become qualified in his primary field, earning the prestigious MP badge. He has also continued educating himself as a leader by completing BNCOC, the First Sergeant's Short Course, and the Company Leader's Course. To ensure that he is prepared to respond to any emergency situation for which he might be called, he has completed all requirements for the MEMS Basic Badge and has attended the ICS 300 course. He has also completed shelter management training offered by the division.

Since joining the VDF, SGT Poe has attended 100% of all drills and Field Training Exercises and MUTAs. In addition, he has always responded to any calls for support of active duty or training exercises, attending 14 such events in his first three years with the VDF.

SGT Poe is a valuable member of his company, bringing the same level of dedication to his duties as a squad leader as he does to his individual training. He exemplifies leadership at the small unit level, accepting all tasks and assignments and working with his soldiers to ensure that they understand and fulfill all tasks in a thorough and timely manner. Most importantly, he watches out for his soldiers, assisting them both at drill and in their civilian lives when necessary. His positive attitude, willingness to volunteer his time, and conscientious leadership make him a role model for those soldiers in his squad and throughout his

company. Leading by example, he exhibits the four characteristics that the Military Police stand behind: Candor, Character, Courage, and Commitment.

An NCO of the Year is selected annually. Brigades and the Division Troop command submit their recommendations by no later than 31 July. Each nomination must be accompanied by a letter from



both the brigade/DTC commander and command sergeant major explaining his choice. The recommendations are based on the soldier's performance during the previous training year, July through June. A board is formed from the Division CSM and the brigade and DTC CSMs.

They then review each nominee's

package, and conduct a personal interview with each NCO. Their decision is based on the interview and such factors as outstanding duty performance; personal appearance, bearing and self-confidence; knowledge of VDF mission, organization, programs and schools; oral expression and conversational skills; non-drill volunteer hours/tasks; knowledge of basic military subjects; self improvements, schools, etc.: achievements, civic involvement; recruiting and retention efforts; and attendance at drills. The board makes its decision by 15 August, and the winner is announced at the division Fall FTX.



Hurricane Season 2013 Threat Assessment

By LTC Stewart Bentley

This threat assessment will provide the VDF with a survey of the probable man-made and natural disaster scenarios that could impact the Commonwealth of Virginia in the coming year. While a man-made (terrorist type) disaster is possible; the threat outcomes from a severe weather event are much more probable, given the effects of climate change, especially based on events during CY 2012. In CY 2013, we can expect an active hurricane season potentially impacting the Hampton Roads and Chesapeake Bay areas. In 2012, there were nineteen named storms in the Atlantic/Caribbean basin. The likelihood of an active storm season in the Atlantic is heavily influenced by whether or not there will be an El Nino in the Pacific Ocean. If an El Nino develops in the Pacific, it is projected that the Atlantic will have a relatively calm storm season; if there is no El Nino, then we can expect an active storm season.

The hurricane season officially begins on 1 June and ends on 30 November. As we saw last year with "Superstorm Sandy," they can occur very late in the season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Know the Difference

Hurricane Watch—Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

Hurricane Warning—Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to by authorities do so by authorities.

Administration posts information on developing storms in the Atlantic, and it has reported that several national meteorological services and scientific agencies are calling for an active season. These organizations are calling for 15 to 18 named storms. The Weather Services International predicts 16

storms, with 9 hurricanes and 5 major hurricanes. The Colorado State University predicts a "potentially hyperactive season" with 18 named storms, 9 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes. The probability of a major hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast and the East coast is rated as "much above-average, and the probability of a major hurricane striking anywhere along the East Coast is "well above average."

In addition to the development of storms, the scientific community agrees that the impact of climate change has caused a decrease in the polar ice caps leading to an increase in sea levels, more water vapor and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and resultant irregular weather patterns. The US Army has recognized that climate change is a threat to national security because of the potential negative impacts on infrastructure, the economy, and the human cost in terms of lives lost and suffering. Additional negative effects are caused by slow recovery time combined with a government unprepared to respond quickly to affected areas. The Army study also indicated the probability of social unrest in the aftermath, if the official response is viewed as slow, ineffective or non-existent.

The annual average sea level increase on the Eastern seaboard is reported by the United States Geological Survey as being .3 inches per year since 1950. The impacts of rising sea levels could be catastrophic for Virginia. The prime danger is the increased likelihood of the damage that storm surge would have on low lying communities with measureable annual incremental increases in the sea level.

Earthquakes also remain potentially significant natural hazards, as demonstrated by the series of earthquakes near Mineral, Virginia in August, 2011; earthquake damage could conceivably force the shutdown of the North Anna Nuclear Station resulting in loss of electrical service to Virginians. Long term outages could, in turn, result in displaced persons seeking assistance at State Managed Shelters. In the event of a disaster causing long term electrical grid outages and the displacement of citizens



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from their homes, we could see widespread activation of State Managed Shelters and a call for support from the VDF.

What all of this means for the soldiers of the VDF is that we must always be prepared to respond. Individually, all soldiers need to have their 72-hour loads ready to go at a moment's notice. They should also have their plans for taking care of their families prepared and rehearsed. Of course, each one of us needs to be fully trained and confident in his or her duties on one of the many teams for which we may be called to State Active Duty to assist our fellow citizens. There are many opportunities to train in leadership and basic skills; take advantage of all you can!

Look on page 8 for the very helpful one page Red Cross Hurricane Checklist.

Message from the G-3: COL Gary Butler

When a man-made or natural disaster strikes the Commonwealth, the Virginia Defense Force is ready to support their fellow citizens. Serving alongside the Virginia Army and Air National Guard, the VDF, an all-volunteer state military force organized under Title 32 of the United States Code and Title 44 of the Code of Virginia, responds to the call of the Governor and The Adjutant General.

Under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs's (DMA) Defense Support of Civilian Authorities (DSCA) Playbook, the VDF is responsible for providing Teams and Resources to enhance DMA capabilities. These dedicated capabilities provide various types of communications support; State Managed Shelter teams; Joint Force Headquarters and Virginia



Emergency Operations Center ESF 16 augmentation teams; and resources such as chaplaincy teams and aviation assets.

For an all volunteer force, the operational tempo of the VDF in 2012 was very high, whether in the conduct or support of training, or during emergencies calling for activation of soldiers to State Active Duty.

During April and September the VDF conducted Major Unit Training Assemblies (MUTAs) at Ft Pickett. These training assemblies provided the opportunity to validate team training levels, conduct classes in leader training, basic individual training, NCO training and special skills training. The November division-level field training exercise (FTX) was cancelled due to real world state active duty deployments in support of Hurricane Sandy.

During the year the VDF provided personnel for DMA training efforts by supporting the National Guard in a Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Movement and Integration (JRSOI) exercise at Ft. Pickett in February, Exercise Commonwealth Guardian in July, and various JTFHQ Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drills throughout the year. VDF further supported the Memorial Day and DMA day ceremonies.

Major real world support was provided to VANG during Operation Derecho in late June and early July and during Hurricane Sandy in October. Hurricane Sandy support required the activation of 61 VDF soldiers who provided communications and staff augmentation to both deployed VANG units and various HQs.

As the successors of the centuries-old tradition of the citizen-soldier, the members of the VDF keep themselves in a high state of readiness, both in their personal lives and as members of this professional cadre of citizen responders. They represent a long history of citizens serving their commonwealth and their fellow citizens in time of need. They demonstrate the very best of service to one's community and take seriously the motto "Virginians serving Virginia."



2013 VDF Headquarters Monthly Drill and G-7 Training Schedule

- 01JUN: Drill at Waller Depot
- 08JUN: BNCOC at Waller Depot
- 22JUN: Staff Ride at Manassas Battlefield
- 13JUL: Drill at Waller Depot
- 20JUL: BNCOC at Waller Depot
- 03AUG: Drill at Waller Depot
- 10AUG: BNCOC at Waller Depot
- 07SEP: Drill at Waller Depot
- 27-29SEP: At Fort Pickett:
DIV Training MUTA
Cdrs Conf
BNCOC
- 05OCT: Drill at Waller Depot
- 01-03NOV: DIV FTX at Ft. Pickett
- 07DEC: Drill and Holiday Luncheon at Waller Depot



Virginians Helping Virginians



Historian's Notes:

"The Past is Prologue."

By COL Dennis Mroczkowski
Division Historian

This issue of the Bugler begins a series of articles on the history of the Virginia Defense Force. These short notes will provide some information that should be of interest and benefit to all of the VDF's soldiers, and especially to those who have recently joined the ranks.

To understand what the Virginia Defense Force is, it is necessary to know how it is legally constituted, and where it has developed from. There are currently many members within the ranks of the VDF who remember its founding in 1985; but its roots go back much farther in time than that.

The Virginia Defense Force is a component of the militia of the Commonwealth. The very word "militia" has an interesting etymology, and its meaning can help citizens to better understand what the VDF is and how it assists the state. The word develops from the Latin "miles," which means soldier. For many centuries, the word "militia," as used in Europe, meant the armed forces of a kingdom, principality, or other realm. But by the 17th century it developed a distinct meaning in England, one which it retains today in our language and laws. By that time, a distinction was drawn between the trained, standing army of the country, and those local bands of armed men who would be called upon for defense of the realm and particularly of their home counties and towns. These militia were not expected to be trained or armed to the extent of the regular army, but were required to augment the army when needed.

When the Virginia colony was founded at Jamestown in 1607, the tradition of a citizenry prepared to defend itself was brought over with the English settlers. While the term "militia" was not used specifically, none-the-less there was an expectation that the colonists would be armed and prepared to fight in the colony's defense. This was a serious

matter, for not only did the colonists have to contend with the local native tribe of the Powhatan Indians, but they were also concerned about a possible attack by the Spanish, who claimed this part of North America. The maintenance of weapons and training in their use were of prime importance to the colony's survival.

At the time of the war with the Powhatans in 1623, the General Assembly, meeting at Jamestown, required that all men going to work in the fields should always be armed, and that when travelling should do so in armed parties. Service in the militia was compulsory for all free male colonists. By 1661, the General Assembly provided for a more organized militia, formed on the various counties, with the local militias under the leadership of a lieutenant. Training was to be conducted every month. These militia bands proved their abilities against the rebellion of Nathaniel Bacon in 1676.

During the French and Indian war (1754-1763), the General Assembly passed an "Act for the Better Regulating and Disciplining of the Militia," in April 1757. Among other requirements, it defined the militia as all the free, white males of the colony, and described the uniform and set standard arms for the militia soldiers, and prescribed the training that was expected to be performed by each company. The Virginia militia saw extensive service during the war. Its highest ranking officer was George Washington, who served as the colonel commanding the Virginia Regiment. Washington served from the war's very beginning in 1754 until 1758, taking part in many campaigns and overseeing the training of the Virginia Regiment into one of the best colonial units in the British colonies.

The start of the American Revolution saw the call for the establishment in Virginia of several companies of "minutemen," similar to other such units established by the Committees of Safety of the various colonies. Virginia also had its locally-based militia units throughout the state. Some of these units saw action against Lord Dunmore and the forces of the Crown early in the war. Later, the militia of the state was used to fight against Indians on the frontier, as a pool from which to draw re-

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-cruits for the state's regiments of the Continental Line, and to perform such more mundane tasks as guards of prisoners, drovers of cattle, and gatherers of provisions for the regular US forces. Once the war drew back to the south in 1780, some of Virginia's militia companies served in the campaign in North Carolina. With the invasion of Virginia by the British in 1781, militia companies served with the Marquis de Lafayette and about 3,000 militiamen took part in the siege of Yorktown. In spite of its many successes during the war, the Revolution showed many weaknesses in the militia structure of

the new nation. The defense of the United States and the role of the militia in that important function were critical issues that would be addressed by the federal and state governments.

Next chapter: the Militia Law of 1792 and the US Militia during the 19th Century.

ODDS & ENDS

Do you know the VDF Chain of Command?

Commanding General.....MG (VA) John D. Taylor
 Command Sergeant Major.....CSM (VA) Andy J. Stevens
 Deputy Commanding GeneralBG (VA) Duncan M. (Pete) Thompson, Sr.
 Deputy Commanding General.....BG (VA) Chad E. Wheelus
 Chief of Staff.....COL (VA) Justin Carlitti, Sr.
 Brigade Commander.....COL (VA) Larry Devron
 Brigade CommanderCOL (VA) Jeff Gardner
 Brigade Commander.....COL (VA) Al Smith
 Division Troop Command Commander.....COL (VA) Wayne Pugh
 Division OIC and R&R Commander.....COL (VA) Michael Lawson

Suggested APPS* for the upcoming hurricane season:

Red Cross:

Tornado



Hurricane



NOAA

*These APPS and more can be found at your iPhone, Android, or Blackberry websites.



Be Red Cross Ready

HURRICANE SAFETY CHECKLIST

What should I do?



- ☐ Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio for critical information from the National Weather Service (NWS).
- ☐ Check your disaster supplies and replace or restock as needed.
- ☐ Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- ☐ Close windows, doors and hurricane shutters. If you do not have hurricane shutters, close and board up all windows and doors with plywood.
- ☐ Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- ☐ Fill your car's gas tank.
- ☐ Talk with members of your household and create an evacuation plan. Planning and practicing your evacuation plan minimizes confusion and fear during the event.
- ☐ Learn about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for your pets to be cared for.
- ☐ Evacuate if advised by authorities. Be careful to avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- ☐ Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at www.FloodSmart.gov.

What supplies do I need?



- ☐ Water—at least a 3-day supply; one gallon per person per day
- ☐ Food—at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- ☐ Extra batteries
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Medications (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- ☐ Multi-purpose tool
- ☐ Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- ☐ Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies)
- ☐ Cell phone with chargers
- ☐ Family and emergency contact information
- ☐ Extra cash
- ☐ Emergency blanket
- ☐ Map(s) of the area
- ☐ Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- ☐ Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowl)
- ☐ Tools/supplies for securing your home
- ☐ Extra set of car keys and house keys
- ☐ Extra clothing, hat and sturdy shoes
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Insect repellent and sunscreen
- ☐ Camera for photos of damage

What do I do after a hurricane?



- ☐ Continue listening to a NOAA Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- ☐ Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- ☐ If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- ☐ Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- ☐ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- ☐ Stay out of any building that has water around it.
- ☐ Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- ☐ Use flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- ☐ Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- ☐ Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- ☐ Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- ☐ Watch animals closely and keep them under your direct control.
- ☐ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

For more information on disaster and emergency preparedness, go to: www.RedCross.org.